GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
REHABILITATION POLICY FOR VILLAGERS LIVING INSIDE NATIONAL PARKS/ SANCTUARIES
Bahuguna Shri Vijay

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy to rehabilitate the people living/residing inside the National Parks/ Sanctuaries located in different parts of the country, especially in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Uttarakhand for removing 41 villages situated inside the Govind Vihar Wildlife Sanctaury in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a),(b),(c), (d)&(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 317 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5-9-2007 REGARDING "REHABILITATION POLICY FOR VILLAGERS LIVING INSIDE NATIONAL PARKS/SANCTUARIES".

(a)&(b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 contains provisions for the voluntary relocation of villages located inside the core areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries falling within the Tiger Reserves. The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) also provides for voluntary relocation and rehabilitation of people living in National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country, which includes the State of Uttarakhand as well.

(c),(d)&(e) The Central Government has not received any such proposal from the State Government of Uttarakhand for removing/relocating 41 villages situated inside the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park in the State. However, the State Government of Uttarakhand had submitted a proposal for rationalization of boundaries of the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, thereby excluding the villages from the boundaries of the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. The proposal was considered by the Rationalization Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife), during its meeting held on 30th June 2006. The Committee had advised the State Government that prima facie there was no need to change the boundaries of the Sanctuary and therefore, the State may re-consider their proposal.